5. Shri R. Wagh,

P. S. to Minister of State for Steel and Mines.

During the course of general discussions held, the proposal about coking coal was made.

(e) Government have undertaken several measures to boost the availability of coking coal for our steel plants such as, constructing new washeries, improving mining operations by adopting modern technologies of washing to improve quality & by setting up more beneficiation and coal handling plants. This apart, arrangement are also being made by SAIL to import a small quantity of coking coal to meet the immediate requirements.

Nuclear co-operation between India and Libya

2744. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Hindustan Times of 25th June, 1984 under the caption "Sethna foiled Libyan A-bomb plan";

(b) if so, the circumstances and the reasons for the disagreement on the issue between the two countries after signing the agreement;

(c) whether any fresh request has been received from Libya for such an assistance, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government: and

(d) the names of the countries which India has provided nuclear know-how during the past three years?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A memorandum of Understanding regarding the utilisation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes was signed in Delhi on 19th July, 1978 between Prime Minister Morarji Desai and Staff Major Jalloud of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahriyah. After an initial exchange of scientists identifying possible areas of cooperation there was no further activity. The Memorandum has lapsed. Libya has indicated its interest in further cooperation, which will be considered in accordance with our policy.

(d) India cooperates with several friendly non-aligned or other developing countries in the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy. Bilateral cooperation agreements in the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy are presently in force with Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, FRG, Hungary, Iraq, Indonesia, Poland, Romania, Syria, USA, USSR and Yugoslavia.

Supply of power units by Poland

2745. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Economic Times dated the 28th July, 1984 under the caption "2 Units of 60 MW each for Rourkela Steel Plant Poland may lose contract due to delivery delay";

(b) if so, what is the final decision arrived at for the cancellation of the contract with Poland for the supply of Power Units by that country;

(c) the reasons for not fore-seeing all the pros and cons as to whether Poland would be in a position to supply the units;

(d) the extent to which the Rourkela Steel Plant suffered loss as a result thereof; and

(e) whether Government are considering to float global tender or award it within the country, if so, the names of the firms which are expected to be awarded the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders for supply, erection, testing and commissioning of the main power plant equipment for the new Captive Power Plant of Rourkela Steel Plant were placed by SAIL on BHEL, who in turn placed order on M|s. Elektrim of Poland for supply of steam generation unit portion and for supply and erection of indigenous equipment other than turbo generators. There is no proposal to cancel the order placed by BHEL on M|s. Elektrim.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Conversion of coal into gas

2746. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research is being conducted for converting coal into gas and any definite results have been obtained in the matter;

(b) whether any plans are being drawn up for the conversion of coal in to gas on a large scale; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the details of those plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Yes, Sir. Research in converting coal into gas is being carried out by several institutions in India:—

(i) Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad after examining the gasification characteristics of non-coking coal has established the amenability of Indian coals to pressure gassification. CFRI have also tested the possibilities of adopting entrained flow gassification techniques for producing synthesis gas from Indian coals.

(ii) Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad has commissioned a 24 tonne per day fixed bed pressure gasification plant and is studying a process for high pressure gasification.

(iii) BHEL is putting up a 150 tonne per day fixed-bed pressure gasification plant of their own design for application in power generation.

(b) and (c) The Government had set up an Export Group on Conversion of Coal to Gaseous and Liquid Fuels whose report has been submitted in May, 1984. The Export Group has *inter-alia* recommended that in view of the varied nature of Indian coals and various required-end uses, no single process technology can serve India's need and it may be necessary to go in for different technologies.

BHEL has a plan to set up 150-200 tonne per day fluidised bed gasification pilot plant to provide operating data for design and setting up of large scale plants.

Joint action by the U.S. and U.K. in the Gulf

2747 SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that joint U.K.-U.S. action in the Gulf region is being planned and whether it is likely to affect the non-aligned move for peace in the Gulf region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): Government are fully aware of the increased presence of US and UK forces in the Gulf region and the possi-